

# **Decision Notice And Finding of No Significant Impact**

## **Modoc Restoration Project**

### **USDA Forest Service Fremont-Winema National Forest Chemult Ranger District Klamath County, Oregon**

#### **Decision**

Based upon my review of the Modoc Restoration Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and project record, I have decided to implement Alternative 2. Timber will be harvested on 3,723 acres using ground-based logging systems, including tree felling with mechanical harvesters or chain saws, and yarding with skidders or forwarders. Underburning will occur on 4,842 acres in the ponderosa pine dominated forest type. Approximately 5 million board feet of wood products will be available to be cut to support the local wood products industry. Live trees larger than 21 inches will not be cut or removed unless they were a danger tree along the road system. Commercial thinning from below is proposed over 121 acres in stands that do not need small tree pre-commercial thinning. Thinning from below in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas is proposed over 242 acres where many of the existing conifers are competing and overtopping the understory aspen stands. No heavy equipment or commercial use would be allowed within approximately 150 feet from the edge of Irving Creek or from the perennial reaches of Modoc Creek. Thinning from below with small tree thinning is proposed over 3,182 acres. Small tree thinning is proposed over 1,848 acres. Group selection/thinning from below and planting are proposed over 252 acres in a single timber stand where past harvest of all the large ponderosa pine released a vigorous response by white fir. Thinning small diameter trees to manage for the habitat of the pileated woodpecker in mostly higher elevation stands along the base of Yamsay Mountain will occur over 789 acres. One 47 acre stand of these 789 acres will be thinned from below through all diameter classes up to 21" DBH. The remaining 742 acres of the 789 will be implemented under a separate decision memo rather than this decision.

The action will use approximately 49.2 miles of maintenance level 1, 2, and 3 roads for timber haul and access. Road maintenance will include grading road surfaces and removing brush from road surfaces and shoulders and maintaining drainage structures such as outsloping, overside drains, or culverts. Approximately 0.7 miles (total) of temporary roads will be established to access portions of harvest units that are not readily accessible from existing forest roads and decommissioning these temporary roads following harvest. Activity slash will be hand piled,

machine piled, lopped and scattered, or the “leave tops attached” technique will be used. Leave tops attached will transport activity slash to landings along with the timber. The top and limbs will be machine piled at the landing and utilized as biomass or fuelwood, or burned if not utilized.

A full description of the alternatives and the analysis can be found on pages 13-33 of the EA.

## Decision Rationale

I have selected Alternative 2 because it best meets the need for proposal (EA pages 7-8) and responds appropriately to the Klamath Tribes’ concerns. Alternative 2 meets the need for proposal by moving stand structure and composition closer to desired conditions, the character of a stand maintained by frequent fire. Stocking levels will be reduced increasing stand vigor and resilience to insect, disease and fire. The fuel reduction would reduce the potential fire intensity, increasing the ease of fire suppression.

The current forest structure and characteristics are unsustainable because the multi-layered conditions raise the potential risk for stand-replacement fires. See pages 2-8 of the EA. The action followed by future fuel maintenance actions will move the treated stands to sustainable conditions. This decision is responsive to the following needs identified in the EA:

***1. The need to reduce the density of forest vegetation to reduce the risk of high intensity, widespread disturbance events, such as insects, disease, and wildfire that could lead to large-scale loss of forested habitat in the Modoc planning area.***

Alternative 2 will thin many of the overstocked trees reducing the numbers of trees which would reduce the stress and competition in the stands. Thinning would reduce the ladder fuels and make the stands more vigorous and resilient to insects, disease and other disturbances such as fire and maintain the large trees into the future. See pages 54-57 of the EA.

***2. The need to maintain and enhance old growth ponderosa pine habitat in the Modoc planning area by developing spatial patterns, forest composition and structure (including bitterbrush), and tree densities more typical of historic fire dominated forests.***

Commercial and small tree thinning implemented in Alternative 2 will stimulate growth of the residual stand to develop into large trees faster, reduce the ladder fuels, utilize the material harvested, create gaps in the canopy, stimulate the shrub layer and reduce the stocking of fire-intolerant species in the ponderosa pine stands. Leaving trees at irregular or variable spacing will cause the residual trees to grow at different rates. Thinning the intermediate sized trees will move the mid-structure toward a large tree structure. Alternative 2 will remove live trees and down wood that create fuel hazards in order to protect and retain existing old growth habitat; over 2,221 acres currently qualify as old growth. Reduction of fuel loads, ladder fuels, and stocking densities would speed development of historic structure. Burning would reduce bitterbrush and other forage in the short term (<10 years). With the increased sunlight from tree thinning bitterbrush and other forage production would improve in quality in the long term (>10 years). The improved quality forage, which currently is the most limiting factor for big game, should lead to an increase in the local population that uses the Modoc planning area summer range. See pages 88-94 of the EA.

***3. The need to reduce stocking levels of conifers in RHCAs in order to release aspen from competition and increase the aspen's vigor and ability to regenerate.***

Alternative 2 will create openings in small patches within each aspen unit. The overall aspen hiding cover characteristics of shrubs, down wood, and aspen stem density will be retained after treatment. The net short term loss of hiding cover in aspen riparian habitat will be very small. Within 10 years, the anticipated aspen re-sprouting effects associated with conifer removal will fill in the openings with aspen stems that will provide both food and cover for big game. In addition to re-establishing a healthy age class distribution at each stand, the aspen is expected to push out from its current perimeter in some cases up to a couple hundred feet. See page 88 of the EA.

***4. The Winema Forest Plan directs the need to contribute to the local and regional economies by providing timber and other wood fiber products and associated jobs as a goal and objective.***

Alternative 2 would provide approximately 5 million board feet of wood products to support the local wood products industry. See page 34 of the EA.

***Tribal Concerns***

Another factor considered in making this decision was tribal concerns and opportunities. The Klamath Tribes indicated concerns for a variety of wildlife species, particularly mule deer, traditional use plants, cultural site protection, the appearance of the landscape, exercising treaty rights, and Yamsay Mountain as a cultural landscape.

Alternative 2 will encourage long term forage (bitterbrush) production over the greatest number of acres and decrease cover available for big game. There will not be a large increase in forage production because land capabilities are limiting, but there will be some shift of site resources from trees to forage production. The quality of shrub forage will be improved. The selected alternative will leave 49 percent of the area in hiding cover. After small tree thinning, complete cover will be reduced to 37 percent. 6,434 acres will be treated in mule deer habitat. Though stands will be open, cover will be provided in 10-15 percent of the units as untreated patches where needed. Alternative 2 will move stands toward historic conditions. Species that favor more open forested stands will benefit in the long term. Species preferring dense, multistory structure will not be favored by Alternative 2, but this habitat type will continue in clumps and untreated areas. 3,303 acres will be treated for wildlife species dependent on open ponderosa forest. See pages 36 and 57-94 of the EA.

Most cultural plants are early to mid-successional. Alternative 2 will improve habitat by opening stands and removing encroachment from riparian areas. Ground disturbance by machinery and/or prescribed burning could result in reduced vigor or mortality of plants/fungus. Some plants do increase/resprout after logging or prescribed fire disturbance, including yarrow, dogbane, chokecherry, huckleberry and pinemat manzanita. See pages 37, 102-106, and 108 of the EA.

Alternative 2 will use avoidance and monitoring to prevent disturbance to cultural sites. After treatment there will be lower risk of wildfire damage to sites. Sites will be protected from

impacts of activities by project design, avoidance, and protection in place. See pages 32-33, 37, and 109-111 of the EA.

Treated stands will appear more open with longer site distances, taller trees, less brush and fewer understory trees. Willows and aspen will be emphasized by removing conifers near the hardwoods. Appearance where large trees are abundant will be of large diameter pine stand with many large, platy-barked trees more fully visible. The shrub component will initially be reduced through underburning and mechanical treatment. Untreated patches within units will soften the visual character of the treated units. Piles of slash could persist for up to 5 years, which will affect the visual quality in the area. Though fire is a natural part of the landscape, prescribed burning will produce smoke and flames as a visual effect. Boles of some trees will appear blackened and the lower portion of the crowns scorched immediately after underburning. Blackened bark and scorched needles from underburning will exfoliate as trees grow, making evidence of burning only apparent upon close examination. See pages 37 and 119-121 of the EA.

The project activities will open canopies allowing for an increase in herbaceous vegetation in the short term that will favor elk. Within 10 years bitterbrush will increase and provide improved forage for deer. Short-term impacts from logging (could occur at any point in the year), summer fuel reduction, and fall burning activities will displace some tribal members when hunting or trapping. Alternative 2 is consistent with the legal rights established by the Treaty. The Klamath Tribes' members will continue exercising their treaty rights to hunt, fish, trap, and gather. Water rights are not affected by any of the alternatives. See page 38 of the EA.

Impacts to tribal members using Yamsay Mountain for cultural activities will be seasonal. Depending on what an individual desires for the experience, they may be discouraged from using the mountain. They may have to choose another location or delay the use to a time that better fits their need or desire. Distant views will be impacted by smoke and background noise from equipment could carry to the mountain to distract from the cultural uses. These impacts will be short lived, confined to the time of operation or activity though they would occur off on over a five year period for timber harvest and 10 to 15 year intervals for fuel maintenance. Between periods of inactivity an opportunity to use the mountain would be provided for those sensitive to sights and sounds of active vegetation management. Noise may last a season or several months during the summer high use periods. Should the logging occur in the winter, the operation is less likely to impact any traditional activity because the activity would not overlap with traditional tribal use periods. The changing stand composition, prescribed to move toward historic conditions and structure, is likely to enhance the cultural landscape in a way that will provide more traditional use of the landscape. Mechanical manipulation of the land may have a short term impact on an individual's sense of well-being. However, the long term effect is designed to mimic a landscape maintained by both natural and human caused fire. The smaller action associated with aspen release will use smaller equipment that is less likely to impact the use of the mountain. Mechanical piling will have an impact similar to logging, but will overlap with traditional use times and may discourage members from using the Yamsay Mountain area. See pages 38-46 of the EA.

The Modoc Restoration Project EA documents the environmental analysis and conclusions upon which this decision is based.

## Public Involvement

This action was originally listed as a proposal on the Fremont-Winema National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions and updated periodically during the analysis. People were invited to review and comment on the proposal through a scoping mailing and 30-day comment mailing. The 30-day comment period also included a legal notice in the Klamath Falls Herald and News and posting the EA on the Forest website. The EA lists agencies and people consulted on page 135. In the EA, Appendix G - Responses to Public Comments explains how comments were considered and used.

## Finding of No Significant Impact

The significance of environmental impacts must be considered in terms of context and intensity. This means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human and national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. In the case of a site-specific action, significance usually depends upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Intensity refers to the severity or degree of impact (40 CFR 1508.27).

## Context

Multiple scales and levels of analysis were used to determine the significance of the actions' effects on the human environment. The overall planning area for the Modoc EA includes approximately 7,911 acres. The selected alternative includes vegetation modification activities on approximately 6,434 acres.

Prescribed fire treatments will need to be maintained over time to manage natural fuels to levels which are conducive to low intensity surface fire. The need for maintenance treatments will be based on fuels accumulations. It is anticipated that prescribed fire units will need additional treatments 10 years following the initial prescribed fire treatment.

The Klamath Tribes have a historical, spiritual, social and cultural connection to Yamsay Mountain, which is adjacent to the Modoc planning area. The Yamsay Mountain area is a gathering place for tribal family groups and is a base for spiritual, cultural and treaty rights and practices.

Based on the analysis and the extent of potential effects, this project is local in scope and does not extend beyond the Williamson River Watershed.

## Intensity

The environmental effects of the following actions are documented in Chapter 3 of the Environmental Assessment: commercial thinning from below; small tree thinning; group selection; planting; establishing temporary roads, and; fuel treatments, which may include leave tops attached, top removal and delimbing in piles or corridors, underburning, handpiling or machine piling, logging and scattering, and prescribed maintenance burning.

The beneficial and adverse direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts discussed in the EA have been disclosed within the appropriate context and effects are expected to be low in intensity because of project design, including Resource Protection and Mitigation Measures (EA pages 24-33) developed to protect or reduce impacts to resources. Significant effects to the human environment are not expected. The rationale for the determination of significance is based on the environmental assessment in light of the factors listed below

The intensity of effects was considered in terms of the following:

1. **Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that, on balance, the effect will be beneficial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(1)).**

Consideration of the intensity of environmental effects is not biased by beneficial effects of the action. The interdisciplinary team analyzed and disclosed the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the actions on various resources. The EA discloses short-term adverse effects and beneficial effects. In my experience with similar projects, none of these effects has been found to be significant. The action has been determined to have no effect on ESA listed species, no impact or not trend toward listing for sensitive species, and detrimental soil condition would not exceed Forest Plan standards. There is a short term decrease in big game forage, (bitterbrush), because of the treatments, but over the longer term, more palatable forage would be created. Species that favor more open forested stands would benefit in the long term. Species preferring dense, multistory structure would not be favored, but this habitat type would continue in clumps and untreated areas. See page 82 of the EA. Resource Protection and Mitigation Measures (EA pages 24-33) were developed to protect or reduce impacts to resources.

2. **The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(2)).**

My decision will not adversely affect public health or safety. Smoke management guidelines will be followed to mitigate the effects of smoke created by project activities. See pages 31 and 119-121 of the EA. The treatments will lead to a beneficial effect upon public health and safety because they have the potential to reduce the intensity and size of wildfires in the Modoc planning area.

Signage will be required under the timber sale contract to indicate when logging traffic is using forest roads. Road maintenance will improve road conditions and increase public safety. See pages 18-19 of the EA. Danger trees will be removed along the forest road system.

3. **Unique characteristics of the geographic area, such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas (40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(3)).**

My decision will not affect any unique areas such as parklands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas, as there are no such areas in the project vicinity. See page 132 of the EA. No significant effects are anticipated for riparian habitat conservation areas because of specific treatment guidelines for their



protection. See pages 14-16 and 24-27 of the EA. Previous experience has shown these treatment guidelines offer effective protection.

The adjacent Yamsay Mountain area is a gathering place for tribal family groups and is a base for spiritual, cultural and treaty rights and practices. Impacts to individual users of Yamsay Mountain will be variable according to how sensitive they may be to active management. There will be periods of time when harvest or fuel treatment activities could displace individuals. The impacts will be short term, though if the activity needs the full summer to complete, some individuals may be displaced. Removal of 5 million board feet will take 2 to 3 months. Winter logging and fall burning will be less likely to impact tribal use. Mechanical fuel treatments will occur in the summer and will involve a low level of equipment use.

**4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(4)).**

Effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial. These types of activities have taken place in this area and in similar areas and the resulting effects are well known and understood. There is no known credible scientific controversy over the impacts of the project. Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines relating to controversy refer not to the amount of public opposition, but to where there is a substantial dispute as to the size, nature, or effect of the action. Given the site-specific conditions and impacts disclosed in the EA (Chapter 3), the effects of implementation of this decision on the quality of the human environment are not likely to rise to the level of scientific controversy as defined by CEQ.

**5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(5)).**

The Chemult Ranger District has considerable experience with actions like the one proposed. The analysis shows the effects are not uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risk. The impacts disclosed in the EA are consistent with those expected from implementing the Forest plan. The activities proposed in this decision are well established land management practices, and the risks are well known and understood.

**6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects, or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(6)).**

The only future actions that will take place will be fuel reduction maintenance treatments on the areas proposed for treatment. No new areas would receive fuel treatments without additional environmental analysis under project specific NEPA analysis. Prescribed fire will have a site specific burn plan written, which outlines the parameters under which the burning will occur to meet resource objectives and smoke management issues. Any new information about the area will be considered at the time the maintenance activity occurs. Public notices will be issued before implementing burning activities.

Prescribed fire treatments will need to be repeated over time to manage natural fuels to levels which are conducive to low intensity surface fire. The need for these maintenance

treatments will be based on fuels accumulations. It is anticipated that prescribed fire units will need additional treatments 10 years following the initial prescribed fire treatment. Maintenance treatments will focus primarily on reducing natural fuels in the 0.0 to 3.0" DBH size classes and reducing the amount of understory seedlings and saplings. Large diameter ponderosa pines will be protected from fire-induced mortality during the underburning by raking around large diameter trees that have existing fire scars or cat faces. Maintenance underburning will be done over approximately 4,842 acres in the ponderosa pine dominated forest type. See figure 4 on page 23 of the EA.

7. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(7)).**

Chapter 3 of the EA provides descriptions of activities and natural events that may contribute to cumulative effects. When the action is considered with other ongoing or reasonable foreseeable future actions, there is no indication of significant cumulative effects. Resources disclosed in the EA either indicate no cumulative effect or an immeasurably minor effect.

8. **The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed , or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources (40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(8)).**

Yamsay Mountain is a National Register Eligible Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). The action will have no significant adverse effect on Yamsay Mountain TCP (EA pages 37-46) or other districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The action will also not cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

Cultural resource inventories were conducted consistent with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) standards for all potential project impact areas. See pages 109-111 of the EA. All known sites will be avoided and sites discovered during implementation of the project will also be avoided. See pages 32-33 of the EA.

Section 106 SHPO consultation was completed under the Programmatic Agreement among the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6), The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer regarding Cultural Resource Management on National Forests in the State of Oregon, pursuant to stipulated Forest Archaeologist review on August 26, 2009 (EA page 110). This satisfies Forest Service responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for implementing the Lower Jack Restoration Project. The Forest Archaeologist has certified a No Historic Properties Affected determination.



**9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (40 CFR 1508.27 (b)(9)).**

The action will not adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species act of 1973, based on biological evaluations completed for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species of animals, fish, and plants. The analysis indicated no effect on ESA species, and no impact or trend toward listing for species on the Region 6 sensitive species list. See pages 57-64 and 99-103 of the EA.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service June 2008 letter of Federally threatened, endangered and proposed species was reviewed for wildlife species that may be present on the Fremont-Winema National Forests and found within or immediately adjacent to the project area. A review of habitat requirements and existing habitat components determined that the listed species, Northern spotted owl, has no habitat in the planning area and the planning area is over 20 miles east of the spotted owl range line.

The Forest Service Region 6 Sensitive Animal list (January 2008) was reviewed for species that may be present on the Fremont-Winema National Forest. After a review of habitat requirements and existing habitat components, it was determined that the following nine species have habitat in the planning area: American bald eagle, Lewis' woodpecker, white-headed woodpecker, Pacific fringe-tailed bat, Pacific pallid bat, evening field slug, and Johnson's hairstreak.

The Winema National Forest does not contain suitable habitat for any Federally Listed, Proposed, or Candidate plant species. The 2009 Sensitive Plant GIS layer was used in conjunction with the project boundary layer to identify several sites of blue-leaved penstemon (*Penstemon glaucinus*). Four of the five sites were re-located in the field. There is potential habitat for several other sensitive vascular plant, and fungi species including northern spleenwort (*Asplenium septentrionale*), Peck's milkvetch (*Astragalus peckii*), pumice grapefern (*Botrychium pumicola*), *Gomphus bonarii*, umbrella false-morel (*Gyromitra californica*), *Hygrophorus caeruleus* and *Ramaria aurantiisiccescens*. Table 8 (EA page 104) displays a summary of species of concern for the Modoc planning area, which includes sensitive species, and some botanical species of interest to the Klamath Tribes.

The Fisheries Biological Evaluation disclosed that a pre-field review for the presence of sensitive fish species in the Modoc planning area and potentially affected fish bearing streams in the immediate vicinity was conducted. The pre-field review revealed that there are no sensitive fish species in either Irving or Jackson Creeks, the only two potentially affected fish-bearing streams. Two sensitive fish species were identified as present in the upper Williamson River: Miller Lake lamprey and redband trout. Redband trout is an aquatic MIS species under the Winema Forest Plan. Electrofishing of Modoc Creek, Irving Creek, and Jackson Creek was conducted on May 21, 2009. No fish were found in the perennial reaches of Modoc Creek. Only non-native brook trout were found in Jackson and Irving Creeks.

#### **10. Whether the action threatens to violate Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).**

The action will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Applicable laws and regulations were considered in the EA (see EA pages 132-134). The action is consistent with the Winema Land and Resource Management Plan and the Eastside Screens.

The consistency with regulatory direction applies to the timber and fuels treatments to include their associated elements and the proposed additional projects. Protection of soil and water resources will be consistent with the Forest Plan and other regulatory direction including Clean Water Act, Water Quality Management Plan appropriate BMP direction, Executive Order 11990 for conservation of wetlands and Executive Order 11988 for management of floodplains.

### **Finding of No Significant Impacts**

After considering the effects of the actions analyzed, in terms of context and intensity, I have determined that these actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

### **Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations**

This decision is consistent with the Winema National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and its amendments. Amended direction includes the *Decision Notice for the Revised Continuation of Interim Management Direction Establishing Riparian, Ecosystem, and Wildlife Standards for Timber Sales* (Eastside Screens, 1995), and the *Decision Notice for Inland Native Fish Strategy* (INFISH, 1995). Since this project is not located in the Northwest Forest Plan portion of the District, direction for the Eastside Screens and INFISH applies. No heavy equipment or commercial use would be allowed within approximately 150 feet (or within 1 site-potential tree, whichever is greatest) from the edge of Irving Creek or from the perennial reaches of Modoc Creek. Within approximately 150 feet (or within 1 site-potential tree, whichever is greatest) from the edge of Irving Creek or from the perennial reaches of Modoc Creek, felling and removal of felled trees would not occur at a frequency that would considerably alter canopy closure for winter thermal regulation or summer shade values. See pages 14-16 of the EA.

The *Pacific Northwest Region Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Invasive Plant Program* culminated in a Record of Decision (R6 2005 ROD) that amended the Winema Forest Plan by adding management direction relative to invasive plants. This project will be consistent with the amended management direction by incorporating prevention measures for invasive plants into the action.

In July of 2010 the record of decision for the *Fremont-Winema National Forests Motorized Travel Management Project* was signed. This decision was implemented to comply with the 2005 *Travel Management Rule*. The 2005 *Travel Management Rule* required the Forest Service to designate where motor vehicle use would be allowed within the National Forest System. The 2005 *Travel Management Rule* provides an exemption for motorized use outside of designated

areas for permitted activities in section 36 CFR § 261.13(h). The Modoc Restoration Project proposed action would be a permitted activity.

The Forest Plan identified standards and guidelines that are applicable to specific management areas (MAs). The MAs in the Modoc planning area are displayed in Table 1.

Table 1 – Forest Plan Management Areas within the Modoc Planning Area

MA-7 Old Growth Ecosystems (Forest Plan, p. 4-128) 360 acres		Goal- Provide, maintain, enhance existing mature and old growth communities for associated wildlife species. Desired Condition- Old growth environments of mature communities of ponderosa and lodgepole pine. Timber management permitted.
Management Area 8 Riparian Areas 440 acres (Forest Plan p. 4-136)	MA-8A Riparian Areas Adjacent to Class I, II and III Streams	Goal- Maintain or improve riparian areas. Desired Conditions- Diversity of vegetative types to provide instream cover for fish, bank and floodplain stability, and habitat for big game and non-game wildlife. High standards of water quality. Timber management permitted.
	MA-8B Riparian Areas Adjacent to Class IV Streams	Goal- Minimize downstream impacts, to provide quality habitat for wildlife. Desired Condition- Vegetative condition protects streambanks from erosion and protects downstream values. Timber management permitted.
	MA-8D Moist and Wet Forested Riparian Areas	Goal- Maintain or improve to encourage wildlife habitat, fawning cover, forage and hydrologic values. Desired Condition- Structural vegetative diversity. Small openings interspersed with hardwood species, open-canopied stands, and patches of big game cover. Timber management permitted.
MA-12 Timber Production 6,600 acres (Forest Plan p. 4-153)		Goal- Produce a high level of growth and timber production with considerations for economic efficiency and resource protection. Screening direction is to manage for restoration of late or older seral stages. Desired Condition- Mosaic of healthy stands capable of timber production. Trees grow rapidly, have well-developed crown ratios and low levels of mortality. Timber management permitted.
MA-15 Upper Williamson (Forest Plan p. 4-160) 500 acres		Goal- Provide natural-appearing forest setting for dispersed recreation activities and special wildlife habitats. Desired Condition- Slightly altered forest environment mix of native conifers and deciduous trees and shrubs. Timber management permitted.

## Administrative Review (Appeal) Opportunities

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215. Any written notice of appeal of the decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 215.14, Appeal Content.

The notice of appeal must be filed hard copy with Regional Forester Kent Connaughton, Appeal Deciding Officer, ATTN: 1570 APPEALS, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, Oregon, 97208-3623, faxed to (503) 808-2255, sent electronically to [appeals-pacificnorthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us](mailto:appeals-pacificnorthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us), or hand delivered to 333 S.W. First Avenue, Portland, Oregon between 7:45AM and 4:30PM, Monday through Friday except legal holidays. The appeal must be postmarked or delivered within 45 days of the date the legal notice for this decision appears in the Klamath Falls *Herald and News*. The publication date of the legal notice in the Klamath Falls *Herald and News* is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal and those wishing to appeal should not rely on dates or timeframes provided by any other source.

Electronic appeals must be submitted as part of the actual e-mail message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word, rich text format or portable document format only. E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than the one listed above, in other formats than those listed, or containing viruses will be rejected. Only individuals or organizations that submitted substantive comments during the comment period may appeal. It is the appellant's responsibility to provide sufficient project or activity specific evidence and rationale, focusing on the decision, to show why the Responsible Official's decision should be reversed.

## Implementation Date

If no appeal is received, implementation of this project will not occur prior to 5 days after the end of the appeal period, following the date on which the legal notice announcing this decision appeared in the Klamath Falls *Herald and News*.

If an appeal is filed, implementation will not occur prior to 15 days following the date of appeal disposition. If multiple appeals are filed, the disposition date of the last appeal will control the implementation date.

## Contact

For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Faith Brown, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, or David A. Sabo, Chemult District Ranger, at 541-365-7001.

/s/ Fred L. Way

09/23/2011

Fred L. Way

Date

Forest Supervisor

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